

# 2002 Report of Accomplishments

## South Yakima Conservation District



### Natural Resource Improvements in 2002 - Summary

- The South Yakima "cluster" was awarded \$830,000 in cost-share for 17 projects. Projects include center pivots, waste transfer, waste storage structures, underground outlets, and tail-water recovery systems. All but two projects are complete.
- During the irrigation season of 2002, Sulphur Creek Wasteway continued to meet the suspended sediment TMDL's turbidity goal of 25 NTU. Granger Drain did not meet this goal and appears to have reached a plateau at the 40-50 NTU range. The first interim goal for the Granger Drain fecal coliform TMDL is not until 2007. The concentrations in the drain remain well above state standards in 2002. The BMPs implemented through the Granger Drain grant appear to have had no measurable immediate effect on the drain's water quality.



### Mission of the South Yakima Conservation District

- The primary goal of the South Yakima Conservation District is to promote the wise use, development, and conservation of our renewable natural resources.

### Water Quality Implementation

- Twenty producers implemented projects treating a total of 265.9 acres. Ten of the projects are in the Granger Drain HUA treating 66.7 acres. Projects included (10) rill to sprinkler conversions, (7) pasture improvements, and (6) sets of installed soil moisture sensors with data loggers.

### Basic Funding

- Basic funding is used to provide training for staff that is not covered by grants. It also helps to pay for wages for non-grant employees.

### Local Funding

- Local assessment is used for district overhead and to cover costs not allowed by grants. These funds also are used for any grants that demand a percentage cash match.

### Professional Engineering

- Worked with 3 landowners and Ecology's Dam Safety division on concerns over a dam safety issues.
- Designed and constructed manure collection pits (3), manure stack slabs (4), mechanical scrape system (1), waste storage pond (3), tailwater recovery system (1), solids settling basins (5), storm water runoff collection pipe (1), storm water runoff collection basin/pond (2).
- Assisted with SEPA review submittal on proposed new dairy construction near Mabton.

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- This year is the district's fourth year of CREP focused on assisting landowners along salmonid waterways with riparian buffers. The district now has four contracts totaling 158.7 acres along 7.8 miles of the Yakima River. CREP interest continues in the district, and the program still has an open

*enrollment. The goal for this year is to continue assistance on the current contracts and service others as they arise.*

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### **Irrigation Efficiencies**

- *Continue to contact landowners to try to sell the program.*
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### **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- *The district was involved in the LWG process for EQIP, also the Rosa Sunnyside Board of Joint Control. Granger Drain TMDL technical advisory committee.*
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### **Information & Education**

- *Eagle Earth day.*
  - *District newsletter.*
  - *Pasture workshop.*
  - *Partner with Benton CD for salmon in the classroom.*
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## **Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices**